

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 1, after the title, insert the following new paragraph:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims priority to PCT Appln. No. PCT/US03/012083 filed October 30, 2003, and to German application 102 51 861.0 filed November 7, 2002.

At page 1, line 2, please add the following heading and subheading as shown below:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

At page 1, line 6, please add the following subheading as shown below:

2. Description of the Related Art

At page 4, line 31, please add the following heading as shown below:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

At page 4, line 36, please amend the following paragraph as shown below:

It was the object of the present invention to provide a polymerizable mixture from which a stable polymer film having high optical anisotropy Δn can be produced by a synthesis which is as uncomplicated as possible. This and other objects are achieved by

employing a polymerizable mixture of at least three components: a first monomer or oligomer bearing two polymerizable groups; a second monomer or oligomer with but one polymerizable group and at least one mesogenic group having an aromatic double ring structure; and a third compound having no reactive functionality polymerizable with the first and second monomers or oligomers, but also having a mesogenic group having an aromatic double ring structure.

At page 5, before line 1, please add the following headings and paragraph as shown below:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIGURE 1 illustrates the stability of Δn during polymerization of a mixture in accordance with the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT(S)